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**Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński. Assistant Priest: Fr. Ebin Thomas VC**

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**5th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021**

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## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

Please join us in saying a **Spiritual Communion** at:

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/when-mcannot-be-celebrated-publicly-making-a-spiritual-communion/>

Or visit live streaming broadcasts of Mass from Northampton Cathedral at

<https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>

Or in other church services via <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Sunday or Daily Readings:

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/spirituality/sunday-and-daily-readings/>

**Keep an eye on the Vatican News channel for live streaming of events.**

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>



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## THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS

### Mass intentions for the next week:

**Saturday - 6.30 pm** - Fr Tony Whitfield RIP and Fr Owen O'Neil RIP

**Sunday - 8.30 am** - Tommy McCarney RIP, 5th anniversary of death / **10.30 am** - For the Parish

Monday - May Jefferies and Jean Ayrton

**Tuesday - 10.00 am** - Thanksgiving Mass

Wednesday - Barbara and Derrick Robinson RIP

Thursday -

**Friday - 7.00 pm** - Jean Driver RIP

**Saturday - 6.30 pm** - Donato Demaio RIP

**Sunday - 8.30 am - Special intention / 10.30 am - Kevin Smith RIP**

To request a Mass Intention please send an email to:

[parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk)

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### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED**

In our prayers, let us remember our deceased parishioners, family members and friends. Let us especially remember those who have recently passed away.

**David Hirst (82)** - His Requiem Mass will be held at St Edward's Church on Thursday, 13th May at 11.00 am. The principal celebrant of the funeral will be Rt Rev Richard Moth, bishop of Arundel & Brighton Diocese.

**Jean Driver RIP**

**Jacqueline Clipstone RIP**

**May Christ, the Good Shepherd welcome them and all who have died into the peace of eternal life and may He comfort their families in their time of grief.**

*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Requiescant in pace. Amen.*

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### **HOMILY FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**



In the Bible but especially in the New Testament, both a vine and a vineyard are beautiful symbols of prosperity, joy and happiness. However, in the Old Testament they also symbolize Israel, the chosen people who wandered through the desert for forty years in search for the Promised Land. Also, today, on the fifth Sunday of Easter we are invited to reflect on this very simple and easy to understand passage of the gospel that tells us about the vine and also about the incredible care, professional experience and the great prudence of the vinedresser. Read the full homily on Sunday at [www.stedwardskettering.org.uk](http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk)

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### **A CROWN FOR MARY**

Once again it's the start of May and, though still in the Easter season, our thoughts turn to Our Lady. Many of us probably still remember the excitement of the May Procession which we eagerly looked forward to as children. With the adventure of attending Midnight Mass and the joy of watching rose petals being strewn before the Blessed Sacrament during the June Procession, the crowning of Our Lady during the May Procession were the highlights of our year!

The two processions were the only opportunities the girls had to wear again their white dresses and veils and the boys their suits with their short-legged trousers and red or gold sash, which had been bought for their First Communion and Confirmation. (Though this gave the girls much pleasure, the boys probably had other feelings on the matter!) The service was followed by processing out of the church and along the road lined by the congregation, then to the school next door

(where we assembled in the yard for Benediction). It was all particularly enjoyable because it happened only once a year and attracted large congregations.

The moment the statue of Our Lady was crowned by the May Queen, surrounded by her Maids of Honour carrying the long train of her cloak, was a moment no-one in the congregation wanted to miss. The May Queen each year always tried hard to time the moment of the crown being placed on Our Lady's head with the chorus of the hymn which described it:

“Oh, Mary, **we crown thee** with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May...”

She was particularly approved of if she could accomplish it because, as we saw Mary's statue crowned with flowers lifted high for us all to follow, our hearts brimmed full of love, delight and pride that Mary was indeed our Queen – the real Queen of Hearts!

Even though some of us lived far from the natural beauty of God's Creation (and had limited television!) we could still imagine what the verses of the hymn described:

“Bring flowers of the rarest, bring blossoms the fairest,  
From garden and woodland and hillside and dale;  
Our full hearts are swelling,  
Our glad voices telling  
The praise of the loveliest flower of the vale.”

We knew that Our Lady loved us and deserved to be given the most beautiful gifts of natural flowers that could be gathered for her.

The memories of childhood can last a lifetime and if the events which create those memories are good, pure and loving, the memories will be so too. “Our Lady's Candles” (as the flowers on the horse chestnut trees were traditionally called) will soon be here with us again. Perhaps this May you can do something good, pure and loving to honour Our Blessed Mother in your families which will be a memory that will last in the hearts of your children for the rest of their lives.

## **Marathon of Prayer**

Pope Francis has invited Catholics and 30 Marian Shrines around the world, including the Shrine at Walsingham, <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/> to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. [#rosarymarathon](https://www.walsingham.org.uk/)

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## DAY OF PRAYER FOR EASTERN CHRISTIANS – 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021

The Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians is an annual day of prayer which enables Eastern & Western Christians to come together in communion through prayer. The event unites the Roman Catholic Church in Europe with dioceses of the Eastern Catholic Churches in union with the Bishop of Rome.

Read Cardinal Fitzgerald's letter about the day and download other resources  
<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FACE-Message-of-Cardinal-Fitzgerald.pdf>

Day of Prayer Poster [http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FACE\\_Day\\_of\\_Prayer\\_Poster\\_2021.pdf](http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FACE_Day_of_Prayer_Poster_2021.pdf)

Day of Prayer Prayer Card [http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FACE\\_Day\\_of\\_Prayer\\_Prayer\\_card\\_2021.pdf](http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FACE_Day_of_Prayer_Prayer_card_2021.pdf)

*“Heavenly Father, we pray today for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East. By your heavenly grace, strengthen the faith and hope of Eastern Christians. May they be blessed with peace and prosperity in their countries. May we be inspired by their devotion and witness to the Gospel, by their love and compassion for all in their communities, and by their courage, their endurance and self-sacrifice. Through their charity, tolerance and friendship, bring peace and reconciliation to those troubled lands, where Christianity was born and first spread. This we ask of you through Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East is launching a prayer group to receive a monthly prayer intention for Eastern Christians. To join visit:  
[www.facecharity.org/prayergroup](http://www.facecharity.org/prayergroup)

To support projects in the Eastern Catholic Churches please donate by  
1 - giving online at [www.facecharity.org/give](http://www.facecharity.org/give)  
2 - texting DAYOFFPRAYER to 70450 to donate £10 (\*Texts cost £10 donation plus 1 standard rate message)

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DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON LITURGY COMMISSION- LITURGICAL FORMATION

## The God Who Speaks - Our Liturgy of the Word



A Series of Online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. A valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Led by the Liturgical Formation Team with presentations by Fr. Allan Jones, CRIC, Deacon Peter Collins, Fr. Andrew Behrens & Mgr Kevin McGinnell

**Tuesday 4 May 2021 (7.30-8.30pm)**

***Acts of the Apostles*** – The work of the Holy Spirit  
in growing the early Church after the Ascension

**Tuesday 8 June 2021 (7.30-8.30pm)**

***The Year of St Joseph***

**Tuesday 13 July 2021 (7.30-8.30pm)**

***Mark and John on the Bread of Life*** – “The Church draws her life from the Eucharist” Pope St John Paul II

*Each session will include input, prayer and the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.*

**Cost: No charge but there will be the opportunity to make a donation**

Please register in advance to secure a place by e mail or phone:

email [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone: 01582 723312 (ext 1)

Once your booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions. Thank you.

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## **BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MASS**

**Tuesday 10am. Friday 7pm. Saturday 6.30pm. Sunday 8.30am. & 10.30am**

The obligation to attend Sunday Masses continues to be suspended. Do not worry if you currently prefer not to attend Mass in church at all during these strange times as permission is still granted for Spiritual Communion via live streaming, details of which can be found at the Catholic Bishop's Conference website:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/online-mass-directory/> This directory aims to provide links to Live Catholic Masses online. Alternatively for Masses across UK and Ireland, visit <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/> or <https://www.CatholicDirectory.org>

### **PLEASE CONTINUE TO BOOK YOUR PLACES AT MASS**

Although we do our best to accommodate anyone who arrives at church without booking, we have recently had to turn a few of these people away as our maximum capacity under current restrictions had been reached. We are really unhappy to have to do this, so we ask that everyone books their place.

- Call the dedicated phone number – **0739 6606 881** Monday or Wednesday 9.30am-12 noon or Thursday evening 6-8pm only. Please do not call outside of these times and don't call the presbytery in order to book your Mass. **Please do not text your booking requirements** as these cannot be confirmed. **Text facility can only be used to notify CANCELLATION of your booking.**
- Only one Mass can now be booked in any one weekend and bookings can be taken to cover two weeks only. If the Mass is full you will be offered the next available Mass.
- To reserve your seat, you will be asked for your name, phone number and the number of people in your household for whom you are booking. This is for NHS Track & Trace and also enables us to contact you if we have advance warning of a Mass having to be cancelled.
- Please give your booking as quickly as possible, to free up the busy booking line!

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### **BOX SETS OF GIVING ENVELOPES 2021/22**

The boxes of Giving Envelopes for the Year Commencing the 2nd May 2021 will be removed from the back of the Church after the 10.30am Mass of the 2nd May 2021.

The remaining boxes which have not been collected will then be available for collection from the Presbytery at 2, The Grove, Kettering.

For Parishioners who would like to consider giving through the Weekly Envelope System, please complete an Enquiry Form which is available at the back of the Church and can be given to you on request via the Stewards on duty, otherwise please enquire through the Church Office in the Presbytery.



Once again may we take this opportunity to thank Parishioners for the continued support of the Parish.

### **GIFT AID DECLARATIONS**

To all Parishioners who Gift Aid, please be reminded to advise the Parish Office of any change in your situation e.g. change of address or if you are no longer a Tax Payer.

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## **ST EDWARD'S PARISH - THE PARISH COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUP**

**The Parish of St. Edward, RC Church, Kettering.** Find the facebook group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762598427183322/>

Come join our Parish Facebook group. Stay in touch with what is happening in St. Edward's Parish and with what is going on in the wider Catholic community around the world.

### **PARISH CALL AND CARE**

The Parish is continuing with its "Parish Call and Care scheme" to support isolated and elderly parishioners. If you are someone who would like to receive calls, from a fellow parishioner, or know of someone who you feel would appreciate such a call, please contact Fr Gregory in the first instance on 01536 512497 or email [parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk) with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number).

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### **USEFUL LINKS**

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline** 0808 2000 247

**Refuge website** <https://www.refuge.org.uk/>

**Kettering Foodbank** 1 Horse Market, Unit 1B, Kettering, NN16 0DG (side entrance at the top of Market Street) Tel. 07709 741353 <https://www.ketteringfoodbank.org/>

**"The Corona Kitchen"**, a hot food takeaway at **Corn Market Hall on London Road** serves from 4pm to 5.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/corona-kitchen/>

A list of free food outlets in Kettering (updated mid-February, 2021) can be found on our website here: <http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/corona-kitchen/>

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## WEEKLY DONATIONS

Some parishioners have asked how they can maintain their donations which would normally be given via the collection plate. It is true that church income will significantly reduce as a result of the current arrangements for socially distanced public liturgies. While I will endeavour to keep parish outgoings as low as possible, please could I ask those parishioners who can afford it at this time, and do not currently give by Standing Order, to consider donating online.

There are several ways of donating during Covid-19 so that you do not need to leave home:

- **Online** This can be done via the Diocesan website which can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/>. Scroll down to find the 'Donate' button and follow the instructions on the Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin money giving page. By indicating in the notes section of the donate page that the donation is for "**St. Edward's Kettering**" your donation will go into our parish account with the diocese, and will at the same time help our diocese as a whole. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation to your parish if you are a taxpayer. Thank you for any help you can give.
- **Standing Order** via your own bank. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using your online bank account. The information required to make the donation is as follows. Bank; NatWest Sort Code; 60-06-11 Account Name; 46898093 Account Name; Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Payment Ref; St. Edward's, Kettering
- **Make a donation to your own parish over the phone** - The Diocesan Finance office has now introduced 'Giving Tuesday'. Each 'Tuesday' between 10.00am and 4.00pm, a member of the finance team will be available at Bishop's House to take your calls to donate to your parish community over the telephone. To donate simply call 01604 712065 with your debit or credit card details. (If you get the answering machine just leave your name and number NOT bank details and you will be called back). When you get through you will be asked for your name & address, your parish, envelope number (if you have

one) and gift aid status. You can make one-off catch-up donations or regular weekly or monthly payments, on any Tuesday until further notice.

- You can also support the Parish by **making a donation through the letterbox** of the presbytery at any time.
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